

IN MEMORIAM
SUZANNE MERIDETH JOY
12 APRIL 1961–7 DECEMBER 2004

RICHARD T. REYNOLDS

*Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building A, Suite 350,
Fort Collins, CO 80526-1891 U.S.A.*

Suzanne Merideth Joy, microbiologist, photographer, animal ecologist, raptor biologist, tree climber extraordinaire, spatial analyst, and always a mentor, passed away on 7 December 2004 in Teramo, Italy. She was in Italy developing spatial models of the habitat of biting midge (*Ceratopogonidae*) vectors of bluetongue disease (*Reoviridae*) in cattle and sheep on behalf of the Italian government and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), her employer since 2003. Suzanne was born in Goose Bay, Labrador, but grew up in Virginia, Madrid (Spain), Minnesota, and Arizona. After graduating from Colorado State University with honors (Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi) and as the outstanding senior in Microbiology in 1983, she spent 2 yr with the Peace Corps in Kenya, East Africa. She was conversant in French, Swahili, and Kikuyu. Upon returning from Kenya, she worked as a radioimmunoassay technician for Hazleton Biotechnologies Company in Massachusetts and researched a pertussis vaccine for the Food and Drug Administration in Bethesda, Maryland.

In 1987, wanting to move from the confines of research labs to the natural habitats of birds and mammals, Suzanne returned to Colorado State University for a Master of Science (1990) degree in Fishery and Wildlife Biology. Her thesis topic was the feeding ecology and nest habitat of the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) in Colorado's Rocky Mountain forests. The experience and knowledge she gained while sampling for nesting *Accipiter*, collecting and identifying their food remains, and measuring the composition and structure of their forest nest sites was soon put to use in helping me establish in 1991 what would turn out to be an intensive and long-term study of the demography, genetics, and habitat of Northern Goshawks (*A. gentilis*) on the Kaibab Plateau, AZ. Before beginning a Ph.D. program at Colorado State University, Suzanne helped develop protocols for finding and trapping goshawks and managing budgets and large field crews through much of the Kaibab goshawk study. She loved being in the piney woods searching for and trapping goshawks, and making difficult tree climbs to goshawk nests to band their young. In 2002, Suzanne was awarded her Ph.D. by the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Colorado State University. Her dissertation, entitled "Northern Goshawk Habitat on the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona: Factors Affecting Nest Locations and Territory Quality," included a dynamic spatial simulation model that described the spatial dependence of goshawk nest locations on both territoriality and the availability of suitable nest sites. She identified the correlates of habitat quality by quantifying the relationship between the long-term reproductive performance of breeding goshawks and the composition and structure of habitats within their territories. Within a few months of completing her dissertation, Suzanne moved to APHIS, where she worked as a spatial analyst, and where once again she quickly became a star.

Suzanne Joy is survived by a son, Quinn, who shows his mother's love of nature, and husband, Vern Thomas, both of whom brought much additional joy to her life. Suzanne will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched. I was privileged to have known Suzanne as a student, employee, colleague, mentor, and above all, a friend.

The editors and authors of these proceedings dedicate the following contributions on the biology and conservation of the Northern Goshawk to Suzanne Joy's memory.

IN MEMORIAM
SUZANNE MERIDETH JOY
12 APRIL 1961–7 DECEMBER 2004



Suzanne Joy with captured Northern Goshawk in the Kaibab National Forest, Arizona.